

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 VO-03

SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4930

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF VN HK

SUBJECT: SETREP - VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: STATE 109341

1. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR NEW INSTRUCTION REFTEL WHICH IS LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF U.S. REFUGEE POLICY. IT WILL NOT ONLY BE HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH HKG AND UK BUT WILL ALSO PROVIDE STRONG ASSIST TO HKG IN ITS EFFORTS TO INTERNATIONALIZE HONG KONG'S CURRENT REFUGEE PROBLEM. INFORMATION HAS BEEN PASSED TO BOTH DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF ICEM AND HK POLAD DONALD. BOTH WERE VERY PLEASED. ICEM DIRECTOR JOHN THOMAS IS DUE IN HONG KONG MAY 12 AND WE ASSUME HE MIGHT HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHEN GROUP OF 67 MAY BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ON TO GUAM.

2. CANADIANS CONTINUE TO PROCESS AND HAVE 19 MORE FROM CLARA MAERSK READY TO DEPART TODAY FOR VANCOUVER. CANADIAN COMMISSION OFFICER TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT THUS FAR THE ONLY HIGHLY-SKILLED PERSONS AMONG THE REFUGEES THEY HAD INTERVIEWED WERE IMMEDIATE
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RELATIVE OF CANADIAN CITIZENS. THE GROUP LEAVING TODAY

WILL INCLUDE THREE DOCTORS. CANADIANS ALSO INFORMED US THAT FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL AND CONSUL WERE INTERVIEWING REFUGEES AT THE CAMPS YESTERDAY. THE FRENCH CRITERIA AS RELAYED BY THE CANADIANS WAS FRENCH SPEAKERS, WHO EITHER HAD REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A LIVING IN FRANCE OR WHO WERE RELATIVES OR FRIENDS OF VIETNAMESE ALREADY IN FRANCE. NO NUMBERS WERE DIVULGED.

3. THERE IS CONTINUING OFFICIAL FEAR THAT HONG KONG, BECAUSE IT IS MORE RECEPTIVE THAN ITS NEIGHBORS, WILL BECOME ACCUMULATION CENTER FOR THOSE REFUGEES OUTSIDE US-CONTROLLED PIPELINE. THIS FEAR IS EVIDENCED IN ATTITUDE TOWARD SWEDISH VESSEL WITH SMALL GROUP OF REFUGEES PLUCKED OUT OF SMALL CRAFT OFF VN COAST. THE M.V. JAPAN ARRIVED MAY 10 IN HONG KONG ENROUTE TO SWEDEN WITH 27 REFUGEES, FIVE OF WHOM HAVE LETTERS FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY, SAIGO, PERMITTING THEM TO ENTER CANADA. CANADIAN COMMISSION HAS OBTAINED AGREEMENT FROM HKG FOR THESE FIVE TO HAVE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS HERE AND, IF ADMISSABLE, THEY WILL HOPEFULLY DEPART HONG KONG LATER THIS WEEK. FRENCH AND SWEDISH CONSULATES HAVE INTERVIEWED AT LEAST SOME OF THE OTHER 22. THE SHIP DEPARTS HONG KONG MAY 16 AND IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT HKG WILL NOT PERMIT ANY TO LAND UNLESS THEY ARE GOING DIRECTLY TO AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE TO OTHER COUNTRIES.
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